Repatriation of profits by foreign airlines

2131. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that substantial number of foreign airlines, which are allowed to operate in India, are also allowed to repatriate their profits; if so, what are the profits repatriated by each one of them during each of the last five years;

(b) whether Government have any plans to review the existing rules and regulations governing the operation of these airlines in India, in view of the on-going policy of liberalisation and if so, the broad nature of changes being proposed; and

(c) the profits earned by Air India and Indian Airlines during the last five years, alongwith the foreign exchange component of national carriers and the precise amount thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Setting up of foreign banks

2132. SHRI BISHAMBHAR NATH PANDE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have approved the proposal for setting up of foreign banks in India; and

(b) if so, which are the companies that have been given licence to set up financial institutions in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) Under the provisions of Banking Regulation Act, 1949, permission to foreign banks for opening branches in India is granted by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and not by the Government.

(b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that the proposals of two foreign banks i.e. Bank of America and Bank of Bahrain and Kuwait for establishing subsidiary companies to undertake financial services have since been approved.

Smuggling of Narcotics

2133. CHOWDHARY HARI SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that smuggling of Narcotics into and from the country continues unabated; if so, the details of the narcotics seized by various authorities during the past three months; and

(b) what steps have been and are being taken to effectively cut smuggling and illegal production of narcotic and psychotropic drugs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) Smuggling of narcotics does take place. But stringent measures are being taken to curb the menace. The details of the narcotic seizures made by the various authorities during the past three months are as under: